Stitching of foodgrain bags

2483. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has not made it compulsory for keeping machine stitched bags for all kinds of foodgrains at the procurement centres;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Machine stitching of bags for foodgrains has not been made compulsory due to absence of legal provision, and the administrative difficulties involved. However, to encourage machine stitching of bags voluntarily, an incentive of 40 paise per bag is being provided by the Government of India.

Encroachment of the park opposite Jai Prakash Narain Hospital

2484. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to clear the park between Jawaharlal Nehru Road and Asaf Ali Road opposite Jai Prakash Narain Hospital from encroachment;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that it is encroached by unauthorised motor garages, catering dhabas etc.;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for permitting them; and

(d) whether Government propose to ensure cleanliness in front of Jai Prakash Narain Hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Relief to various States for drought and other natural calamities

2485. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the demands of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other States for drought and other natural calamities during the last three years and of the current year and the quantum of Central assistance given to them during the above period with how much time lag; and

(b) the names of States which have complained that they have not been given adequate relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) State-wise details of Central assistance sought by various States for drought and flood etc., and ceilings of expenditure approved by the Government of India during the years 1983-84 to 1986-87 are given in statements I and II respectively [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 95]. Statements indicating the dates of receipt of Memoranda and approval of ceilings of expenditure during 1986-87 for drought and floods, etc. are given vide statement III and IV respectively [*See* appendix CXL, Annexure No. 96].

Some States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh have represented about the inadequacy of ceiling of expenditure approved for relief measures during 1986-87.

Price of Sugarcane

2486. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed new statutory minimum price for sugarcane at Rs. 18/- per quintal for 1987-88;